

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: June 11, 2014

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:21 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair  
Aaron Freeman  
Benjamin Hunter  
Frank Mascari  
William Oliver  
Marilyn Pfisterer  
Leroy Robinson  
Joseph Simpson

#### Absent Members

Vernon Brown  
Christine Scales

PROPOSAL NO. 123, 2014 - reappoints Robert Hammerle to the Marion County Public Defender Board  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 166, 2014 - appoints Melissa Kramer to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 167, 2014 - appoints Marilyn Williams to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 190, 2014 - appoints Jasmine Jackson to the Marion County Community Corrections  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 191, 2014 - appoints Mary Weber to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team  
"Postpone" until July 23, 2014 Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 192, 2014 - approves an appropriation of \$900,000 in the 2014 Budget of the Marion Superior Court (Commissioner's Guardian Ad Litem and Guardian Ad Litem Funds) to cover guardian ad litem services  
"Do Pass" Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 193, 2014 - approves an appropriation of \$38,943 in the 2014 Budget of the Marion County Public Defender Agency (Federal Grants Fund) to purchase docking stations, monitors and computer accessories in support of the laptop implementation allowing agency staff the flexibility to access case information at multiple locations resulting in greater efficiency  
“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Chair Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Aaron Freeman, Benjamin Hunter, Frank Mascari, William Oliver, Marilyn Pfisterer, Leroy Robinson, and Joseph Simpson. Absent were Vernon Brown and Christine Scales. Bart Brown, Chief Financial Officer represented Council staff.

### PROPOSAL NO. 123, 2014 - reappoints Robert Hammerle to the Marion County Public Defender Board

Mr. Hammerle stated that he has been associated with the Marion County Public Defender's Agency (MCPDA) since the 1970s. He stated that he enjoys having the ability to use his experience to help the board and public defenders do their job effectively.

Councillor Freeman spoke in support of the proposal, stating the Mr. Hammerle has been a great mentor.

Councillor Oliver stated that indigent offenders have complained that their appointed public defender are not accessible and they feel that their cases are not properly handled. He asked how the issue can be resolved. Mr. Hammerle stated that the caseload can make it difficult for the public defenders to meet with each client on a consistent basis; however, the agency pushes each attorney to build a relationship with their client in order to give them the best service possible.

Chair Moriarty Adams called for public testimony.

Larry Vaughn, citizen, stated that MCPDA is essential to the City of Indianapolis.

Councillor Freeman moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to send Proposal No. 123, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

### PROPOSAL NO. 166, 2014 - appoints Melissa Kramer to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Ms. Kramer stated that she has worked for the City-County government for 16 years, spending ten of the years with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO) in the Domestic Violence-Sex Crimes area. She currently screens at the Julian Center with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Domestic Violence Detective Unit. She stated that given her experience, she looks forward to serving on the board.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if Ms. Kramer could give insight on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT). Ms. Kramer stated she has not yet served on the board, so she cannot share any information.

Councillor Freeman moved, seconded by Councillor Mascari, to send Proposal No. 166, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 167, 2014 - appoints Marilyn Williams to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Ms. Williams stated that she is the Director of Pastoral care at St. Francis Health. She stated that she helped start a women's shelter in Birmingham, Alabama, and worked with the Family Justice Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She stated that it has been a long-term interest and commitment to work with battered women.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Freeman, to send Proposal No. 167, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 190, 2014 - appoints Jasmine Jackson to the Marion County Community Corrections

Ms. Jackson stated that she has worked for the Department of Corrections for seven years and the Plainfield Correctional Facility and currently works as a Deputy Clerk for the Marion Superior Court (MSC). She stated that she has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and will attend law school in the fall.

Councillor Hunter moved, seconded by Councillor Freeman, to send Proposal No. 190, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 191, 2014 - appoints Mary Weber to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Chair Moriarty Adams stated that Ms. Weber had a conflict in her schedule and suggested that the committee "Postpone" Proposal No. 191, 2014 until the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Councillor Pfisterer moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 191, 2014 until July 23, 2014. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 192, 2014 - approves an appropriation of \$900,000 in the 2014 Budget of the Marion Superior Court (Commissioner's Guardian Ad Litem and Guardian Ad Litem Funds) to cover Guardian Ad Litem services

Sue Patterson, Director of Finance, Marion Superior Court (MSC), stated that there is no dedicated funding source for the Guardian Ad Litem program. She stated that the State only covers around 16% of the cost. The expected cost of 2014 is \$3.4 to 3.6 million. She stated that the requested \$900,000 will possibly fund the program through October. Ms. Patterson stated that the caseload increased 35% between March and April of 2014, but decreased in May. However, she added that the caseload will likely increase in August once children return to school. Ms. Patterson stated that the \$650,000 that will be used for the Commissioner's Guardian Ad Litem fund will barely stretch to the end of the year, so there is a need to find more funding.

Councillor Simpson asked how much money is needed to fund the Guardian Ad Litem program. Ms. Patterson stated that there will not be a fund balance at the end of 2014. Councillor Simpson asked how much funding was needed for 2014. Ms. Patterson stated that \$3.4 to 3.6 million is

needed for 2014. Marilyn Moores, MSC Judge, stated that the caseloads are becoming heavier, adding that there is a cap on the number of cases case managers are allowed to receive at one time. She stated that the cases they receive are those that need serious attention. Councillor Simpson asked when the funding will run out. Ms. Patterson stated that the funding is expected to diminish in October; however, it depends on the cases that are received once children return to school in August, as schools will often contact the Department of Child Services (DCS) regarding children who may be in need of services.

Councillor Freeman encouraged the committee to fund the program, stating that the Guardian Ad Litem service is needed to advocate for children, whereas attorneys are needed to advocate for adults.

Councillor Pfisterer also encouraged the committee to fund the program, stating that she is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and understands the need for child advocates.

Mr. Brown asked if the State mandated the County to manage the costs of Guardian Ad Litem services. Ms. Patterson affirmed, stating that the State Court of Appeals issued the opinion in late 2008. Mr. Brown asked from where the funding for Guardian Ad Litem comes. Ms. Patterson stated that the revenue comes from a State grant, which covers 14 to 16% of the costs, as well as a mid-year distribution. She stated that the Commissioner's Guardian Ad Litem is funded by the \$35 fee that was added to traffic tickets. Mr. Brown asked if the revenue has matched or exceeded expenditures. Ms. Patterson responded in the negative.

Councillor Simpson moved, by Councillor Hunter, to send Proposal No. 192, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0

[Clerk's note: Councillors Hunter and Simpson left at 6:14 p.m.]

PROPOSAL NO. 193, 2014 - approves an appropriation of \$38,943 in the 2014 Budget of the Marion County Public Defender Agency (Federal Grants Fund) to purchase docking stations, monitors and computer accessories in support of the laptop implementation. This will allow agency staff the flexibility to access case information at multiple locations resulting in greater efficiency

Aaron Atwell, Deputy Chief of Operations, MCPDA, stated that the appropriation comes from a grant that was awarded to MCPDA and will be used to purchase docking stations, monitors and computer accessories in support of the laptop implementation allowing agency staff the flexibility to access case information at multiple locations, which will result in greater efficiency.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if the money will be used to purchase new computers. Mr. Atwell responded in the negative stating that the agency is working with the Information Services Agency (ISA) to transfer desktop computers to laptops.

Councillor Freeman moved, seconded by Councillor Hunter, to send Proposal No. 193, 2014 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

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New Business

Chair Moriarty Adams asked Matthew Kimmick, Deputy Controller, Office of Finance and Management (OFM) if new employees for Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services (IEMS) will receive Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF). Mr. Kimmick stated that he is unaware of the issue, but stated that he will look into it and contact her as soon as possible.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/slp